

DPW Commission Meeting
Wednesday, 4/13/16, 7pm
Conference Room A in Town Hall

Present were Commissioners Gardner and Reed (Chairman Sena arriving late), and DPW Director Parisi.

Minutes Approval: Commissioner Gardner moved to accept the March 30, 2016 minutes, Commissioner Reed seconded, Vote: 2-0. Chairman Sena not present yet.

Open Discussion with Commissioners: T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, spoke on the CPC Millbrook Meadow, 2016 application. J. Parisi confirmed that another \$350,000 was requested. The second request is for any shortfall in dredging, and any remainder would move forward for work in the meadow. Commissioner Reed said this wasn't an issue for the DPW. T. Arsenian inquired who has control over the lots that could potentially be for solar fields.

Chairman Sena arrived at 7:15pm.

New Business:

Community House Manager, Bill Balzarini, stated he is leaving for Colorado on 5/24/16 for at least 3 months, however it could be longer. He may not return from Colorado, so the position should be filled permanently. He said they collected \$6,000 in 3 months, 23 groups use the facility, 179 functions were held in the last year. Balzarini has been in the position for 2 years. He reviewed the job description and said he would be happy to assist in the recruitment process for his replacement and the transition. There was a request that the stipend be increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000; Balzarini said he spends approximately 17 hours per week in the position. J. Parisi said the revolving account was increased by \$5,000 but the plan is that the fees to rent the building be increased to cover the expenses. Commissioner Reed commended Balzarini on a job well done and thanked him for his efforts.

Old Business:

New DPW Barn:

Commissioner Reed and Wally Hess from the Finance Committee have been working on some letters, the letters talk about the need for the new building and one speaks to the financing of the new barn. Commissioner Reed said in the letter it explains the timing of this need.

D. Campbell, candidate for the Board of Selectmen, was present. He said he supports the new DPW Barn but was inquiring about financing. He said the fire station and schools need financing as well.

Commissioner Gardner said he has asked L. Wessel, Finance Committee Chairperson, to write the letter explaining the financing of the barn. He said some of your tax dollars are paying for existing debt, 3 to 4 years from now the exempt debt is coming down.

Chairman Sena said other requests are important as well but this has been discussed for 7-8 years now.

T. Olson said this has been on the 5-year plan for years now.

T. Arsenian said in 2 years an override will be needed for the schools.

We need to discuss how to get the word out about the proposed new barn since staff members cannot promote this during work hours, due to Ethics regulations, but the Commissioners can. It was recommended to maybe speak at the Rotary and other similar forums to inform taxpayers. It was also suggested to leave brochures and other information for the public at the Transfer Station.

Commissioner Reed said it's an approximate \$500,000/year increase for every year that we delay this project; because the costs keep escalating.

W. Aspesi said many people don't understand the overall cost of the project, and that everything is included in the cost projections.

Commissioner Gardner said people don't understand why we can't just upgrade the building; they don't understand the safety hazards, that the existing building doesn't meet code and is completely inadequate.

DPW Facility Request for Qualifications:

T. Olson said he drafted the RFQ for design services. He said we will be ready to go if we get a positive vote on May 3. He said next Wed., 4/20/16, we will be interviewing different firms; the selection process will take us to mid-June. If it doesn't pass at the ballot, we can cancel it.

It was stated that J. Parisi would be the Project Manager. He said he had the same role during the Community House renovations; we will need to formulate a building committee. The Project Manager coordinates and holds meetings.

Commissioner Gardner spoke about the current design of the new DPW barn and said we want to be sure that it has potential for office staff. He said let's be sure the office space is configured correctly. Director Parisi said it looks tight with the current design. There was approximately 2,000 additional square feet to include office staff.

Other Business:

- Transfer Station, recycling: J. Parisi said we are expecting a proposal from Integrated Paper, we are hoping they can do it. We don't own the compactors; we could buy used compactors if we need to.
- We will be starting Sunday Transfer Station hours in May.

Next DPW meeting: 5/4/16 at 7pm at the Police Station. On Saturday, 4/30/16 from noon to 2pm, we will hold an open house at the barn.

8:15pm: Commissioner Gardner moved to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.